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Agua Culture

By CAROLYN LUKEHART

Chemical Farming, also called Tank Farming, Bucket Farming, Agua Culture, and Test Tube Farming is the new and amazing science of growing flowers and vegetables in water without the use of soil. In chemical farming the yields of most crops are many times larger than if they were grown in soil; and they will grow many times faster.

Two branches of floriculture researches have been presented recently, sand culture and water culture. The sand culturists placed their plants in clean washed sand and flooded the beds with solutions containing feeding chemicals. The water culturists laid mats of excelsior, sawdust or practically any porous and absorbent material on wire meshes, over pans of nutrient solutions so that the plant roots could dangle in the feed box and enjoy an endless meal.

Professor F. W. Gericke, associate plant physiologist of the University of California has supervised experiments where tobacco climbed twenty feet, potato plants deposited hundreds of clean white tubers and onions grew three deep.

Every gardener knows, or ought to know, that there are certain elements in the soil which make plants grow, and when these elements are there in the proper proportion, and are made available to the plant by watering and cultivation, the plant

develops as it should. To grow plants in liquid instead of in soil, it is merely necessary to isolate these essential elements and, in the form of chemical compounds, put them in water. A single plant can be grown indoors very readily in a mason jar or milk bottle.

After a container has been selected, a wire and wooden tray is made and placed in the opening eight inches from the bottom. This eight inches is filled with chemical solution. The tray is then filled with excelsior. If small plants are used, they are inserted through the excelsior, the roots extending into the solution. Bulbs, potatoes, etc., are placed on the excelsior so the growing roots will extend into the solution, the potatoes remaining in the excelsior. As this solution evaporates, it is replaced with plain water. The original chemical solution lasts between seven and ten months.

In chemical farming there are no seasons when vegetables or flowers grow best, they grow the year around. It is hard to imagine having fresh tomatoes, corn, bell peppers, and strawberries in the middle of winter, but you can have them right in your own home, garage, or basement. Flowers, too, have no season; and, if reasonable care is taken, you can have a flower garden in your living room all year 'round.

Vines

Grow your own bride's bouquet. If you are not familiar with the Madagascar jasmine you soon will be, for it is becoming increasingly popular in midday's corsage and in the bride's bouquet. The waxy, star-shaped flowers have an appealing perfume which makes them ideal for florist's purposes.

The vine should do well with us and is recommended for sun or shade. It has a neat twining habit and its large leathery leaves give it a tropical appearance. The tubular jasmine-like flowers grow in clusters, pure white and each four inches long.

It is said that over 30 years ago Jacquemet, pioneer San Francisco nurseryman, brought a cutting of the then rare vine to S. F. from Europe where it was known as the favorite flower of King Edw. VII. The florist tended the vine carefully and after his death other nurserymen received cuttings which they propagated in their hothouses. From this one stem come about 90% of the country's supply of the cut flowers most of which are grown in the Sunnyvale district

The Cover Picture

The cover picture was donated by the S. D. Cons. Gas & Electric Co. This planting, around one of their sub-stations, is so outstanding that it won a prize in our last garden contest.

Visiting the Flower Shows

With KATE O. SESSIONS

The La Jolla Flower show of April 22nd and 23rd was an exceptional display of quality and the arranged displays were all well done. The exhibits of fruit arrangements were excellent and the fine loquats in particular were a new feature this year.

Very choice Columbines from several gardens, exceptional specimens of Snapdragons, the potted *Schizanthus* — best ever exhibited and grown by the owner of the garden, Miss Snever, also her potted *Pelargoniums* were the best ever exhibited and a large plant of a white variety was particularly fine. The *Cineraria* and *Primrose* display by the Del Mar Hotel was excellent and a very neighborly donation. Two miniature table fountains with forgetmenots were exceptionally choice.

The ten commercial displays by nurseries were particularly good, though of moderate size. The rare and new plants by a grower of Encinitas, showed *Ochrids* that are practical for our gardens, and the tree *Peonies* and specimens of new *Azaleas* and *Rhododendrons* were most promising features for our future. The few *Peonies* and beautiful *syringa* specimens from Julian and Pine Hills were a stimulating prospect for the great possibilities that our mountain locations hold for horticulture, for our country in particular. And the sooner that section gets to work planting those treasures that will not flourish near the coast, the faster will that section become more desirable and important. The great telescope will call many visitors and the hotels and homes need to be more attractive.

The Coronado Flower Show on the same date as La Jolla was in strong contrast. Its location in a public park with the shade of large established trees is most commendable. The park department's four large beds of *Cinerarias* were in perfect condition and made a very

beautiful feature. The Wild flower display was the best that I have ever seen exhibited at any of the annual flower shows here. It showed a keen interest and a large amount of hard work. The labelling was good but will be better next year.

The competitive displays were so systematically arranged that it was a pleasure to check over the winners and the quality and great variety of the flowers of each class. A *Pink Statice* was displayed for the first time and proved its value as an *immortelle*. Its botanical name is probably *Limonium Survorowi*, grown in Col. Copley's garden.

The Rancho Santa Fe Flower show April 30th and May 1st was a real gem. The dedication of the new Community Club House by the show was a big incentive for work and certainly the committee deserves the greatest praise for the exceptional results. The new feature of the flower pictures was the finest ever; the arrangements of the class of displays, the quality of the arranged floral displays, the beautiful containers so carefully selected for each subject. The club house and its enclosed play ground were so well planned for its use. The club house a gift and the architectural plans also a gift, most commendable civic donations and an example that will give not only very lasting and beneficial results to its own community but a lesson for other sections of the county to appreciate and duplicate.

The San Diego show sponsored by the Floral association made quality very prominent. The Sweet Pea and Iris sections were not as large as on previous years—the roses were more abundant in variety and specimens so very fine, arranged floral displays, luncheon and dinner tables were extra fine and many more entries than usual. The seven commercial displays were very good and the four giant specimens of *Rhododendrons* were the grand-

est ever seen here and a proof of what our mountainous sections can successfully produce.

The display of the Navy was the best ever. A collection of assorted colors of *Hydrangeas* from Encinitas was a new feature and were very beautiful specimens. *Hydrangeas* do grow here successfully when properly located in the shady sections of the garden or beneath a large tree. They need heavy pruning when very dormant.

The large display of Avocado fruit from Vista at the Coronado and San Diego Shows was by far the finest display ever presented to the public. The great variety of the sizes and shapes of the fruits, the quality of the packed boxes make the grower command the patronage of the whole of California and an excellent county enterprise.

The very large *Phoenix Carnariensis* in many gardens about the city with their large and very rough trunks are objectional to a well kept garden. If the common and thrifty sword fern roots are planted when small over the trunks they will soon establish themselves and make the trunk a living column of beauty. Not only the thrifty sword ferns but the Maiden hair ferns on the north side will flourish. Also several kinds of small growing succulents and the many sorts of *Echevaria* will make a very attractive decoration. The common *Echevaria glauca* has been a great success in several places in San Diego, about the base of such places. Every old palm trunk in Honolulu is completely covered with growing ferns of many kinds.

August Show

Begin making plans right now to enter the Fall Flower Show. Premium list will appear in our August number.

Garden Strolls With the Editor

Eugenia myrtifolia pretty now with ruddy-hued new foliage. An Australian. More satisfactory than Italian cypress for a panel. Berries edible. Combines nicely with *Myrtus communis*. I like the myrtle's aromatic foliage. Makes a beautiful hedge. Better than privet. Classic myrtle of literature. Considered by the ancients sacred to Venus.

Flowers play a great part in mythology. The tears of Venus shed at Adonis' death were changed to anemones; the red drops fallen from his side were transformed into red roses. History of rose interesting to trace. Bible a rich field of allusion to plant world. Exemplifies affinity and respect humanity has had for plant life. And Shakespeare often referred to flowers. Saw a Shakespearean garden once. In it every flower he mentioned.

Leptospermum covered with small white flowers. *Leptospermum laevigatum*. There's a name for you. Not so bad when you understand the derivation. Another Australian. Also that *melaleuca* nearby. Name means black and white. Black trunk and white branches. Soon be in bloom with bottle brush flowers. Better make an Australian garden. Could have *acacia*, *casuarina* and *eucalyptus* for background. Add *grevillea*, *cassia* and *hakea*. *Pittosporum* would fit in nicely. Like *Pittosporum undulatum* best. Fragrant flowers.

Eucalypti picturesque against horizon. Trees characteristically Californian now. *Eucalypti* are among the giants of vegetable kingdom. *Eucalyptus ficifolia* showiest of all. Great clusters of scarlet flowers against dark glossy leaves. *Eucalyptus* important for increasing our supply of hard woods. Foliage distilled in large quantities for valuable oil.

Snails eating my petunias. Better put out that bran-arsenic mash. What's that proportion? One-half pound of white arsenic; fifty of bran. Mix and add H₂O. Add su-

gar or molasses to make it more appetizing.

Pansy time is here. No flower quite so appealing as these with their pensive little faces. Percentage of germination and size of blooms prove it pays to buy the best seed. Same with all seedlings. My godetias coming up thickly. I like the name, farewell-to-spring.

Sweet peas the year round. Should have more *gypsophila* for bouquet filler. Means "gypsum loving," hum, so it should have calcareous soils. Gypsum good for cutting adobe soils. Sand and peat, too.

Fuchsias deservedly coming back. Mostly tropical American, so do well in the open here. Brilliant color combinations. Be sure to use the graceful climbing variety. *Geraniums* coming back, too. *Geraniums* of common knowledge in genus, *Pelargonium*. Vivid red one blooming in pot effective peering through iron grating of a Spanish hacienda.

Spanish planting for a Spanish home. *Dracaenas* and flax. *Yuccas*, too, for they are called Spanish daggers or bayonets. Broad-leaved plants such as bananas and *aralias* are good. Also cacti and other succulents. Agave was one of the plants taken to Spain by the Conquistadors as one of the novel and unusual productions of the new world.

Vines play an important part in a Spanish planting. Many brilliant *bignonias* and *tecomas* useful. Cup-of-gold unusual. Patio walls should be covered. *Solanum rantonetti* shows to best advantage when hanging over a wall. Espalier fruit trees for planting against wall. Oranges, tangerines, figs, cherries and apples can be trained in this fashion.

Shrubs should be in warm colors. Orange and red *lantana*. Orange *streptosolen*, yellow *genistas*, *cassias*, *acacias*. And contrasting shades of blue and lavender.

Palms; exotic trees. Colorful tile. Pots. Ollas. Whole composition must radiate a feeling of warmth. The Spanish garden is certainly most suited to Southern California.

"Garden" Advertisers are reliable merchants and merit your support . . . patronize them.

A June-Blooming Perennial

Yucca Filamentosa
(Adam's Needle and Thread Palm)

By The Master Gardener

An old-fashioned perennial, and one that might well be used more often in modern gardens, is *Yucca Filamentosa*, commonly known as Adam's Needle and Thread Palm. If the beauty of one of these desert-like plants with its tall spike of lily-of-the-valley-shaped blooms doesn't grace your garden, then you must visit a garden that boasts of one. The nodding bells are especially beautiful by moonlight, as they radiate a soft, silvery luster impossible to describe.

This plant is especially valuable for use at walk corners or similar points where some emphasis is needed, but where there is not room for a shrub. It is fine for bold, subtropical effects, especially in dry areas. There is nothing more effective or striking for isolated positions on the lawn. It is not usually disturbed by dogs or children.

Yucca filamentosa is a low-growing plant, with a basal clump of stiff sword-shaped leaves, having needle-like points at the ends, and having loose thread-like filaments hanging from the leaves, hence the words "needle" and "thread" in the common names.

While some species of *Yucca* are not suited for landscape purposes, *Yucca filamentosa* is. It requires an open sunny location. While easily grown and requiring no special soil, it does best in a sandy well-drained fibrous loam. An occasional feeding with a complete, balanced plant food will increase the beauty of foliage and bloom.

The flowers are large and creamy white, borne in immense loose panicles, and the flower stem stands three to five feet in height in a good specimen.

The *Yucca* may be propagated by offsets, by stem and root cuttings, or from seed. Plants are often self-sowing.

Plant in any season.

See Your Garden At Night

Nature, in the great variety of her moods, is always capable of fascination for the mind that can relax and enjoy it. Perhaps it is the fact that men must work and play so much at tension that the moods of nature are so impressive when we take time to notice. People who live in cities are particularly limited in this respect, since their opportunity to notice comes chiefly at the end of the day. At certain seasons of the year, it is still light enough at the end of a work day to spend some time in concentrated cultivation of the garden, or the pursuit of active sports. We feel we must exercise while we may.

This is all as it should be. But the beauty of nature may be enjoyed with particular relish after daylight has gone. In many respects pictures of nature are seen with an emphasis on details that would be unnoticed by day. A picture needs a frame and a background. Night furnishes these requirements admirably when the relaxed mind notes the rare charm that lies in the form and composition of trees and flowers and shrubbery by garden lighting. In order to see the delicate pattern of branches and leaves with new respect, we must see them high-lighted and emphasized against deep shadows.

Out here in Southern California we are not limited in the use of our gardens. They are to be enjoyed twelve months of the year. A beauty spot adjacent to a living room window may become a part of that room by properly illuminating it at night so that it is readily seen through the window against the blackness of the night.

A small lighting unit makes it possible to do the many gardening tasks in the evening after the heat of the day. This would permit the use of daylight hours for play or other purposes.

May Meeting

A large gathering of appreciative members and friends of the San Diego Floral Ass'n. had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Clinton Abbott, director of Nat. History Museum, explain the history of banding birds. Addressing a floral club, he said, on an ornithological subject seemed quite suitable, as we associate birds with trees and with plants and flowers. Of all the subjects in the museum, birds stand first in the interest of the public. Dr. Abbott attributed this to their beauty, the charm of their songs, their human attributes of intelligence and devotion to their young, and especially to their power of flight and the mystery of their migration.

The first banding was done satisfactorily in England and was called "ringing." Tiny aluminum bracelets marked with serial numbers and return addresses are used to identify individual birds.

Banding began in this country in 1908, and Dr. Abbott himself imported the first bands used here. He was suspected by the customs collector of trying to bring jewelry under guise of material for scientific research.

From banding, naturalists know that the long distance record is that of the Arctic Tern from Labrador to the coast of Natal Africa. Mentioning the little house wrens as leading most scandalous lives, Mr. Jenny Wren must avail himself of a Reno.

America has the largest record of banding in the world—2,000,000 birds have been banded—and the returns have been two per cent.

Always a treat for floral lovers are the talks by Miss Kate O. Sessions. Vines was the subject. When starting a garden plant vines, they make rapid growth. Six hundred and forty varieties of vines are grown in California—more and larger than in Florida. With specimens to show kinds and qualities, some of which she mentioned were three evergreen grape vines, four honey suckle, Caroline jasmine, Chilean jasmine—deciduous, with colored leaves at maturity—Guata-

mala syringa and climbing aloes. Potted vines donated by Miss Sessions and *Acacia pendula* by Dewey Kelly were given away. Senator Wm. E. Harper acting as caller of numbers.

Mr. C. J. Jerebek exhibited several showy blooms of a cactus family, with which he illustrated its "evolution."

The President, Mrs. Mary A. Greer, reporting on results of the club's Spring Flower show was happy to mention the final payment of the club's note. Also that Mr. Shoven, chairman, will continue the membership drive which has been most satisfactory.

G. M. G.

Garden Hints

By Carolyn Lukehart

Rhododendrons should be planted with oak or pine leaves. This creates an acid conditoin. Use ammonia sulphate for fertilizer and food.

Although late, this hint may be filed away until next year. Soak dahlia tubers for one and one half hours before planting in a solution of one oz., formaldehyde to two gallons of water.

If you are interested in vines, investigate the following which are evergreen: *Begonia cherere* (Red trumpet vine), *Cissus Capensis* (Evergreen Grape) *Ficus Repens* (creeping fig), and *Hibbertia Volubilis*.

A spray consisting of two tablespoons Paris green, two pounds of brown sugar and water for three gallons of spray is a promising summer spray for gladiolus thrips.

A mixture of linseed oil and resin applied as a thin coating over the bark of young trees will repel rabbits. Another formula calls for resin, fish oil and copper oleate.

The following is the government formula for snail bait: one pound calcium arsenate, one quart, cheap molasses, four small ground lemons or oranges, four quarts water and sixteen pounds wheat bran.

Ella Stoddard Ryan

Mrs. Ryan, one of the oldest members of the San Diego Floral association in point of membership, died on April 18, 1938, at the home of her son, Harold, in Los Angeles. For many years Mrs. Ryan was a contributor to *The Garden Magazine*, her whimsical verse and garden articles appearing under the title of "The Gray Goose." She had been a continuous subscriber to *The Garden* from the beginning and maintained a complete file of the magazine up to the time of her death.

Mrs. Ryan was born in Assam, India, on March 12, 1852. She left India with her parents, who were Baptist Missionaries, when she was four years of age. The family settled at Pella, Iowa, where she spent her girlhood and early adult life. In 1874 she was married to Thomas Ryan and of the union several children were born, three of whom are now living. In the early eighties the Ryan family moved from Pella to Lincoln, Nebraska, where Mr. Ryan practised law. In 1905 they left Nebraska for Oregon and came to San Diego the following year, 1906.

Following the death of her husband in 1919, Mrs. Ryan carried sturdily on with independent spirit until 1927 when she left San Diego to be with her son, Harold, and his family. One grandchild, Drusilla Ryan Patterson, still lives in San Diego.

Mrs. Ryan's outstanding characteristics were her devotion to her family and to her garden. She loved children and the out-of-doors with more than ordinary intensity.

Flowers, birds thunderstorms, lighting and clouds were always a great delight to her. In spite of advancing age and waning strength she kept up her active gardening until well into the fall of 1937. Her pleasure in gardening, flowers, music and birds continued to the last, and her delight in little children never failed.

The writer was privileged to know Mrs. Ryan for many years, particularly during the period he edited *The Garden*. Her verse and garden observations as the Gray

Goose are well remembered by earlier readers of the *California Garden*. Her last contributions were sent to the writer from her Los Angeles home several years ago. Her whimsical style of writing was all her own and everything she wrote gave pleasure to others.

A brave but gentle soul, a strong character, devoted to her family, a lover of children, music, gardens and out-of-doors, one who left the world better for having lived in it, this is how Mrs. Ella Stoddard Ryan will be remembered.

Robt. R. McLean

The New Battle of Monterey

All naturalists and most visitors to California will remember those few score survivors of the Monterey cypress, making their last gallant stand against extinction on Point Lobos and Cypress Point just south of Monterey Bay. Few trees in the whole world have had as interesting histories. Even a few thousands of years ago there is reason to believe that groves of these cypresses were many times more numerous. In past geologic ages they were among the main trees of the world. Why the proud race has dwindled to the few wind-crippled stragglers on those two western-most points of California is one of the botanical mysteries, for seeds of these trees will sprout and grow almost anywhere. Gardens in most parts of the world now own some of the California trees' descendants, but nowhere do these descendants, seem able to grow wild.

Now comes what may be an explanation of the tragedy of this tree's decline, but is still more likely to end that decline forever in extinction. Beating against the biological ramparts of Point Lobos is a wave of deadly fungus, the cypress bark canker. Thousands of cultivated trees of the Monterey species have been attacked and killed. As yet the wild trees have escaped, but no one can consider this more than a respite. Unless the human defenders, in the persons of agents of the United States and state de-

partments of agriculture, can root out the fungus or build against it a better barrier than nature provides, the last wild cypresses of Monterey are doomed. Unfortunately, no one has found a weapon really effective against the fungus. Trees only mildly attacked sometimes can be saved by radical pruning and cleaning, plus thorough use of chemical disinfectants. Trees more completely infested must be cut down and burned. Helping to save the few wild trees that remain, California owners of infected cultivated trees have allowed these to be cut and burned, hoping to create a fungus-free zone around Monterey Bay wide enough to keep the wild trees from attack.

Where the deadly fungus has been lurking in recent decades is a mystery. Like the new germs that occasionally break out in human populations, it may have been spending its time in some other botanical host. Perhaps this is not its first outbreak, the past decline of the Monterey cypress almost to extinction being explained by some previous epidemic much as the American chestnut was almost destroyed by blight. The problems of biological extinction, from microbes to dinosaurs, form a branch of evolutionary theory too much neglected. The plight and fate of Monterey's trees may earn them more of the naturalists' attention. —Christian Science Monitor.

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will be held on June 21st and every member is urged to attend this important yearly event. There will be short reports from committee chairmen and election of directors for the coming year.

A feature of the meeting this year will be a round-table discussion on matters of interest to every association member. A wide selection of plants will be distributed free at the close of the evening.

June Pests

Spray for the sucking insects: aphids, thrips, red spider, scale insects. Use an oil spray to which nicotine has been added.

For chewing insects use a stomach poison. Lead arsenate is a good one.

For night feeders such as snails use a bran bait.

For fungous diseases use either a dust or spray recommended by your nurseryman.

Nearly every shrub or tree in your garden is subject to attack by scale insects. While widely different in appearance, scale insects have many common characteristics. They are small, naked, with a hard outer covering or are covered with a waxy secretion which protects them from climate, natural enemies and most spray materials.

Young scale move about but after the first molt of their outer covering most species become stationary. Feeding consists of extracting the plant juices and causes the general depletion of the host. Many species of scale insects exude large amounts of unsightly sticky honey-dew that gums up the plant or the walks beneath the trees. Smut fungi developing in this honey-dew gives a black smutty appearance.

The most effective control of scale insects is in the summer time immediately after the young have hatched and before they develop their hard protective coating to spray with a petroleum oil emulsion. Watch your plants closely for signs of these pests.

A Summer Flower Arrangement

Try this arrangement: Lion's Tail, Gaillardia, Marigolds, and the new Shasta Daisy. Arrange the flowers in the manner that they grow, the Lion's Tail the highest and the rest subordinate to it. Allow the flowers to droop over the rim of your container to bind the flowers and vase into one composition.

Problems of the Soil

By R. R. McLEAN

Question: I'd like for you to tell me what is the matter with my chayote plant. I planted it this spring and it came up and made quite a nice vine. Then around the bottom it began to dry up like a cucumber plant after it quits bearing. I give it plenty of water and fertilizer. The ends are still green and a few blooms are on one. This is the first one I planted and I like them very much I've been out here a year so don't know very much about the plants and gardening on the coast. Am enclosing a leaf. Mrs. H.D.W.

Answer: The leaves sent indicate a leaf spot trouble, probably one of the mildews. Mildew has been particularly severe this spring and summer. If the drying up of leaves continues you might try spraying with a Bordeaux mixture, using 1 pound to 6 1/4 gallons of water. This Bordeaux recommended is a powder and requires only mixing with water. A liquid Bordeaux is sold also, but where you have only a limited amount of work to be done the dry form is much the handiest to use. It is sold by seed houses and other dealers in insecticides.

There is one other possibility that should not be overlooked. Dig down around the roots and note what condition they are in. If you find them knotted up with small nodules or swellings, a disease or infestation of the root-knot nematode may be present. If in doubt about what you find, send a few small roots to the County Agricultural Commissioner's office in the Court House and a definite determination will be made. No very satisfactory remedy for root-knot is known. If plants roots are diseased or are attacked by root pests, leaves on the aerial portions of the plant are very apt to be affected also.

Question: Several pear trees have had what I suppose is blight. What is the treatment? One tree I would very much like to save but nearly

all the top is dead. What can be done?—B.D.

Answer: The only cure for pear or fire blight is surgery. Usually the infection begins in the blossoms or young twigs and works down the branches. If not checked fire blight, a bacterial disease, may extend downwards into the larger branches or even into the trunk itself and finally into the roots, killing the bark as it goes. All affected twigs and branches should be cut off well below the point of visible injury, sterilizing the shears, knife or saw immediately after each cut. One tablet of bichloride of mercury, 7.3 grains, dissolved in a little water, not over a pint, will make a good disinfectant.

If the disease has killed only sections of the larger branches or trunk and has not girdled them entirely, the dead and dying bark may be thoroughly scrapped or cut away, extending the operation into live healthy bark. However, exceptional care must be used in sterilizing the cutting or scraping tools to prevent spread of the disease rather than otherwise. The wounds may be treated afterwards with Bordeaux paste and covered with some tree seal preparation to keep the bark from drying out. If the tree you wish to save is not too far gone, this procedure may be followed and a new top grown from the old stumps.

Question: The ants on my place are unusually troublesome this season. There have always been many ants but they are worse than ever before. I would, therefore, like to make a real effort to get rid of them. Can you help me out? Do you have a syrup suitable for poisoning purposes?—E.P.P.

Answer: The treatment depends to some extent upon the type of ant. Argentine ants are treated with a syrup containing a weak arsenical, this poison not being strong enough to kill the workers outright, but taken to the nests and fed to queens

and young it ultimately wipes out the colony. Native ants, as a rule, require a stronger poison. Some ants that nest in the ground around the house and yard, such as the large red harvester ants, can best be destroyed with chemicals, as carbon bisulphide or calcium cyanide. Holes are punched with a bar or sharp pointed stick a few inches down into the nest and a little of either of the chemicals named is poured therein and the holes immediately closed with dirt. For the smaller ants in places where their nests can be located, a little calcium cyanide poured into each will be found very satisfactory indeed. Some of the smaller ants, as the so-called fire ants, are best killed with the cyanide treatment if the earth is dug up around the entrance holes and a little of the poison scattered through the earth. The nests of fire ants and some others are of considerable extent, hence the placing of cyanide in one place might not be entirely effective. Neither calcium cyanide nor carbon bisulphide, especially the latter, should be used in soil where there are tree or plant roots—it is desirable not to injure.

There are several very reliable firms operating ant control systems in and around San Diego. It probably would pay you to call in one of these firms and turn the control work over to them in case you do not care to follow the matter up yourself. The trouble with most home ant control attempts is that when ants begin to diminish in numbers the control work stops. This is just the time when it should be prosecuted with the utmost vigor.

The Agricultural Commissioner's office does not at this time prepare or sell ant poison. You can now get it from almost any seed house or other dealer in insecticides.

QUESTION: For two years I have had but little if any bloom on my narcissus plants. They seem to make thrifty tops but no bloom. Can you suggest any reason why they do not bloom as they should? T. F. J.

ANSWER: Some information as to what care the bulbs have had previously would permit of a more intelligent reply. The care the growing plant re-

ceives after flowering (in the case of bulbs left in the soil) is of much importance. If the tops were cut, for instance, soon after flowering the bulbs would not develop to a normal maturity upon which flowering the following season largely depends. If the plants are permitted to dry out before their annual cycle of growth is completed flowering the next season will be affected. Under normal conditions the small-flowered hardy varieties of the polyanthus type, as paper whites, China lilies, etc., will bloom regularly but the other types will often refuse to bloom if they are overcrowded such as would happen if the bulbs were left too long in the soil without being lifted. This condition results in an insufficient supply of plant food reaching the individual bulbs.

QUESTION: What kind of nut tree (only one) would do O. K. in this locality? How about a walnut or almond tree? The soil is that heavy red adobe and several feet deep with fair drainage. What variety apricot or persimmon would be most desirable here? C. D. H.

ANSWER: A walnut might do if the soil is several feet deep with good drainage. Placencia Perfection is the best single variety for local planting. Almonds are not satisfactory here as they do not bear heavily or regularly even when interplanted with other varieties for pollination purposes, as is required. The trouble seems to be climatic more than anything else. Pecans are similar in their soil requirements to walnuts, but need other pollinating varieties as do almonds. A beautiful evergreen nut tree, rather upright and compact in habit and not requiring such a deep soil as pecans and walnuts, is the Macadamia or Queensland nut. A number of fruiting trees are growing in and around La Mesa. The nuts are produced in large, heavy clusters, are round and about the size of very large hazelnuts. The shell is very hard but the meat is delicious. The Macadamia, up to date, has not developed serious pests and requires no annual spraying, as do almonds.

As to apricots, the best variety for local planting is Royal. The finest Japanese persimmon grown in the south is Hachiya, although a non-astringent variety, very fine for home use, is the Fuyu.

Question: I have need of a whitewash that will stick well when applied to young trees. Will you kindly give me formula for same and oblige.—B.Y.O.

Answer: A very good sticky whitewash can be made by slaking 10 pounds of quicklime in 2 gallons of water for one hour in a covered container. Add enough warm water to make the whitewash spread easily with a brush and to each 5 gallons add 1 pound of stick glue (dissolved in warm water), ¼ pound of salt and ½ pint of crude carbolic acid. The carbolic acid can be omitted if desired, although it acts as a repellent to borers and other insects. In place of the glue water you can substitute a liquid made by chopping up cactus leaves or stems and soaking them overnight in warm water. When using the prepared wash, apply it while warm with a good whitewash brush.

A Dahlia Note

Question: I have a few very choice dahlias but unfortunately they were planted in soil where there were nematodes and now the tubers seem to be infested. I particularly want to save these tubers and would appreciate any suggestion you can give me in connection with treating them to kill the nematodes.—B.D.S.

Answer: It is difficult if not entirely impossible to destroy nematodes when they are already imbedded in the tissues without killing the host also. However, in the case of dahlias at least one grower was confident he did this very thing by the use of formaldehyde. He used 1 ounce of formaldehyde to 2 gallons of water and soaked the tubers in this solution for 1½ hours. The writer did not see the dahlias in question, either before or after treatment, but the grower referred to, states he saved his tubers in this manner. It might be worth while to try it.

S. D. Floral Association meeting held third Tuesday of each month at Floral Bldg., Balboa Park, 7:30 p. m.

Memorandums

By ELLIOT M. ALBRIGHT

The best way to help the next Fall Flower Show to be a success will be to bring in arms full of flowers cut out of the garden and fill all available tables and vases, for after all, what is a flower show without every corner and space crowded to overflowing?

A list of some of the favorites that can be shown to advantage if planted now are as follows: Asters, Calendula, Candytuft, Carnation, Centaurea, Celosia, Dahlia, Delphinium, Dianthus, African daisy, Chrysanthemum, Galardia, Marigold, Penstemon, Salvia, Scabiosa and Zinnias, as well as plenty of roses.

The success of bringing these flowers up to the point of exhibition depends chiefly upon one thing, fertilization. The idea of fertilizer covers the field from barnyard to the highest quality of blended commercial mixtures. The value of any fertilizer depends upon the amount of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash that it contains. Since the new green growth comes from the addition of nitrogen, the strength of the stems and wood from the phosphates, and the flowers and fruit from potash, the mineral elements necessary are generally in the soil in sufficient quantities for the needs of the average plant.

In applying barnyard fertilizer it is found that by filling a barrel receptacle half full and then pouring in water until full, then letting it stand for a week or so, the liquid produced gives a much quicker action without so much danger from weed seed and troubles that arise from the use of this kind of fertilizer. Another method of application is to bury sections of tile pipe vertically at various distances around a tree or bush, then fill these pipes with barnyard material and pour water into them at various times as necessary.

Commercially mixed brands of fertilizers have a decided advantage

over the above type for the reason that they contain both mineral and organic types mixed together so that the quicker acting mineral types start the growth in a short time, while the slower acting types sustain the plant for a considerable length of time.

Requirements for fertilizing a lawn seem to demand a material higher in nitrogen. Since only the green growth of the grass is necessary, a mineral fertilizer such as ammonium sulphate or an organic type such as blood meal, which carry a high percentage of nitrogen may be used.

Two ways of applying ammonium sulphate are: (1) to thoroughly soak the grass the day before, then apply a light sprinkling of the powder, and following with another good soaking. (2) mix a cup of ammonium sulphate in two gallons of water and apply with a sprinkling can. Light application every six weeks or so will keep a lawn in much better shape than heavy applications at long infrequent intervals.

The question is often asked as to why there are many different prices on Kentucky blue grass seed. The fundamental reason is that there are several grades of seed. Grass seed is graded according to the weight per bushel. The lower grades start at 18 lb. per and advancing to 22-25—and on up to 30 lbs. per bushel. The lower grades contain more chaff and foreign matter and less percentage of germination, while the higher grades have been put through a more thorough cleaning process and the chaff and lighter weight seeds blown out, thus leaving only the best seeds to be used. The additional cost of recleaning necessarily raises the price of the seed, and it is always well to ask the grade of the seed when making a purchase.

The application of water to a lawn is handled in several ways. There are many types of sprinklers on the

market, and each one claims its own advantages. The writer is of the opinion that surface irrigation and not mist sprinkling is the most efficient and economical way to supply moisture to the grass. In this way the water is applied directly to the spot where it is needed and does not become lost in the atmosphere.

During the summer months most lawns are afflicted with that common ailment known as brown spot, and one wonders what he should do to prevent it from ruining the whole winter's work. The most prevalent cause of this ailment has been found to be the work of the sod moth that lays the eggs, that in turn hatch out into worms which feed on the grass roots. There are several remedies on the market, in liquid form, which when diluted in water and applied to the spots affected, are found to be effective in preventing its spread.

We hope that these few memorandums will be of some help to those who might care to use them, and also aid in a bigger and better FLOWER SHOW.

Peat Moss

What kind of soil do you have in your garden? Do you labor with sticky clay? Is it hard yet fertile adobe? Gravelly or stony? Or are you trying to induce loose sand to hold fertility? Any such soil is a problem in any garden but don't worry with it any longer. You can quickly and easily correct it by mixing granulated peat moss into it. It will make a crumbly loam of it and supply the humus material your soil needs. Don't take half-way measures. There is no danger in using too much peat moss. It cannot possibly burn or rot the roots of plants.

If you ever visited the Santa Maria Inn during the summer you were perhaps thrilled with the Peruvian Lilies (Alstromeria). There are two species of orange and a pink that are excellent. These make fine companion plants for Delphinium.

Things to Do in June

By The Master Gardener

Late-blooming, tall-growing herbaceous plants, such as the hardy chrysanthemums, should all be given special attention in the way of feeding, watering and pinching back.

Cut back early blooming perennials if you want fall bloom; feed with a complete, balanced plant food, watering in well.

Cut back phlox and feed, to induce fall flowering. Dust phlox frequently with dusting sulphur to prevent mildew.

Give the roses a good feeding now. A feeding of complete, balanced plant food at this time, together with removal of all spent blooms, will result in glorious fall bloom. Continue to dust and spray roses as a preventive of black spot and mildew.

Disbud dahlias now if you wish large blooms.

Do Not Mulch Your Lawn

While the practice is definitely waning, we still find some home owners applying manure to their lawns. Ostensibly this is applied as a mulch to protect the lawn against the extremes of drought. Actually, it does not serve such a purpose.

Experiments in recent years prove that any type of mulch, whether it be of some coarse material, or a tall growth of the uncut lawn grass, is not of value and is, during most seasons, decidedly harmful, since such a covering often mats and smothers the grass beneath. This is always the case with the larger pieces of manure.

The only benefit derived from the cost of the manure and the labor of applying and later removing it from the lawn comes from the small amount of plant food contained in the manure. Even

from the standpoint of plant food application, the practice is not advisable. Manure contains only small amounts of plant food. When applied in late fall or winter most of the plant food contained in the manure is washed and leached away before the spring growing season begins.

For sturdy lawns no substitute in the way of a mulch takes the place of deep rooted dense turf that has resulted from proper feeding with complete plant food, adequate, thorough watering, and sensible clipping program whereby the grass is never allowed to grow taller than about three inches and is never clipped closer than one and one-half inches.

More All-Americans

Aster, ENCHANTRESS—Wilt-resistant Improved Crego type of bright pink with salmon undertone.

Aster, ILLUSION—Wilt-resistant Giant Comet type of creamy salmon-pink.

Marigold, AMERICAN BEAUTY MIXED—Finest African types of chrysanthemum and carnation-flowered hybrids.

Myosotis, INGRID—Large azure blue flowered oblongata type. Tender perennial.

Antirrhinum, PSYCHE—Large-flowered nanum maximum type of light yellow, shaded orange.

Do try some of these new introductions this year. Countless effort and expense have gone into the selection of this group of the best of the new varieties, so avail yourself of the results.

And when you order your seeds, don't forget to order a complete balanced plant food, because for gardening success, in addition to good seed, you must also provide proper nourishment for plants.

DRY NOTES

Species of Cistus (rock-rose) are wonderful for dry places and rock walls. Do you know Cistus villosus? Rather dwarf, 12 to 18 inches, leaves and young stems shaggy with whitish hair. Large flowers of rose with yellow base all summer.

RAINFORD FLOWER SHOP

You are cordially invited to call
and see our shop at

2140 4th Avenue

San Diego

Telephone number remains the
same — F. 7101

Call and Investigate

Planting season for the fragrant Chilean Jasmine, the everblooming orange Thunbergia Gibsonii, all the dependable Bigonias, the fall Marigolds, all shrubs and ask for the new varieties.

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